



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 21, 2014

To: School District Superintendents  
School District Test Coordinators

From: Assessment and Accountability Division

Re: 95% Participation Rules For Reporting

In a memo emailed to District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, Principals, and District Testing Coordinators in March 2014, The Idaho State Department of Education stated that the 95% Participation Requirement on the Smarter Balanced Field Test was not waived by the U.S. Department of Education. The memo also defined the calculation for participation as the following: Student participation in the Smarter Balanced Field Test will be calculated based on the total number of students who start the Field Test divided by the total number of students on the testing roster on 4/25/2014 (as reported in ISEE) in each grade at each school.

As required by NCLB, participation is calculated for each content area and reported for each NCLB subgroup.

We are still uncertain what the ramifications will be if the 95% participation rate is not met at any level - district, school, grade, or subgroup. The SDE will submit our report to the U.S. Department of Education in mid-December. We should have information to communicate to districts in January.

**Note:** For the purposes of participation, the N count will be reported for groups equal to or greater than 10. Those groups/subgroups with less than 10 will be masked in these reports. While a subgroup in a particular grade level may be masked, the collective population in that subgroup in a school will be reported for the School - All Grades if the total count is equal to or greater than 10. The same rules apply to the district reports.